

For Immediate Release

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*Washington, D.C.*-- Today, Congressman Sires joined his colleagues in the House of Representatives in passing H.R. 5850 the fiscal year 2011 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, by a vote of 251 - 167.

“This legislation prioritizes the creation of jobs, provision of foreclosure counseling, and improvement of safety to those who use our transportation system,” said Congressman Sires. “This bill is also fiscally responsible and achieves savings by cutting lower-priority programs.”

The Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act provides resources to keep our transportation system efficient, safe, and secure. In an effort to increase use of public transportation, this legislation includes investments in high-speed passenger rail as well as new commuter rail and light rail systems. Investments in the bill are expected to create more than 160,000 new jobs. More specifically, the investment of for highway construction would create more than 142,000 new jobs in highway construction, which is one of the hardest hit unemployment sectors. In the public transit sector, more than 20,000 new jobs are estimated to be created.

In order to ensure that all Americans have access to housing this legislation provides assistance to families who are at risk of foreclosure. Increased funding is provided for rental vouchers and housing assistance to help those most in need – the disabled, the elderly, and homeless veterans. Additionally, this bill encourages sustainable practices in energy planning, local housing, and transportation which would create livable communities for all.

“As the Representative of an urban district, transportation plays an enormous role in everyone’s lives and I am proud to support passage of this bill,” said Sires. “This legislation is a key part of Congress’ long-term economic plan to create good-paying jobs here in the United States and provide much-needed homeowner relief.”

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